

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, EEC

SUBJECT: ECE- REPRESENTATION OF EEC IN ECE BODIES.

SUMMARY: A POSSIBLE NEW DEPARTURE WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR
EEC REPRESENTATION IN ECE BODIES WAS RAISED DURING
RECENTLY CONCLUDED GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CUSTOMS QUESTIONS
AFFECTING TRANSPORT (21-25 OCTOBER).
CONTROVERSY BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE NINE
AND EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES AROUSE OVER THE ASSERTED RIGHT
OF A SINGLE MEMBER OF NINE TO PRESENT POSITIONS OF THE
EEC ON THE CUSTOMS CONVENTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORT OF GOODS UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNET (TIR
CONVENTION). MATTER WAS RESOLVED BY AGREEMENT TO ADHERE
TO TRADITIONAL PRACTICE OF PERMITTING SINGLE MEMBER TO
SPEAK ON BEHALF OF OTHER MEMBERS, IF SO DELEGATED, BUT
NOT PERMITTING OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF EEC POSITIONS.
GROUP AGREED TO REFER QUESTIONS OF EEC
REPRESENTATION TO PARENT BODY, INLAND
TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, AND TO THE ECE
PLENARY IF NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

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FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS OF THE NINE, STATED THAT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF TIR CONVENTION WERE OF CONCERN TO THE COMMUNITIES. COMMON POSITIONS HAD BEEN ADOPTED ON THESE ASPECTS WHICH WOULD BE PUT FORWARD BY A SINGLE SPOKESMAN FOR THE NINE WHO WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK IN THEIR NAME " OR ON BEHALF OF THE EEC".

USSR, SUPPORTED BY OTHER EASTERN DELEGATIONS, STATED THAT ONLY INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS WERE REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING AND NOT ECONOMIC GROUPINGS. THEY DID NOT OBJECT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY GOVERNMENT SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS IF THOSE GOVERNMENTS AGREED. BUT THE QUESTION WHETHER A REPRESENTATIVE OF A GOVERNMENT MIGHT SPEAK ON BEHALF OF AN ECONOMIC GROUPING WAS NOT WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THIS GROUP OF EXPERTS BUT WAS WITHIN COMPETENCE OF THE ECE ITSELF.

UPON REQUEST, THE SECRETARIAT EXPLAINED THAT PAST PRACTICE PERMITTED A SINGLE SPOKESMAN FOR A GROUP OF GOVERNMENTS ON THE BASIS OF A DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FROM THOSE GOVERNMENTS. IT WAS ECE PRACTICE FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO INVITE OFFICIALS OF CERTAIN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (E.G., EEC, CMEA, OECD) TO EXPRESS VIEWS IN MEETINGS OF THE ECE. BUT ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PRACTICE WAS NOT CONSIDERED TO CONSTITUTE A RECOGNITION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS OR BY ECE BODIES OF THE RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS. THE SECRETARIAT ADDED THAT IF IT WAS THE INTENTION TO CHANGE THIS PRACTICE, THEN THE GROUP OF EXPERTS SHOULD REFER THE QUESTION TO THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE.

THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD AGREE TO FOLLOW PAST PRACTICE DURING THIS MEETING BUT ASKED THAT DIFFERENT VIEWS BE REFLECTED IN THE REPORT. HE NOTED THAT THE EEC AND ITS MEMBER STATES WILL, IN THE FUTURE, BE REPRESENTED BY A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY IN THIS GROUP.)

THE GROUP OF EXPERTS AGREED TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WITHOUT PREJUDGING THE POSITIONS EXPRESSED.

IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE CONVERSATION, UK MISSION OFFICER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(WARBURTON) CONFIRMED TO US MISOFF THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE EEC, AS DISTINCT FROM A SINGLE GOVERNMENT ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE NINE MEMBERS, HAD ASSERTED A RIGHT TO SPEAK IN A ECE MEETING TO SET FORTH COMMON POSITIONS. THIS RIGHT WAS ASSERTED IN THIS CASE BECAUSE OF SPECIAL NATURE OF TIR CONVENTION WHICH CONTAINS MATTERS EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES COMPETENCE. IT WAS NOT EXCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE

EEC WILL SEEK TO ASSERT SUCH A RIGHT IN OTHER ECE
MEETINGS.
IN THE VIEW OF THE UK, THE ISSUE OF EEC REPRESENTATION
IN ECE MEETINGS WILL ARISE IN THE FUTURE, MOST
PROBABLY IN THE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE AND POSSIBLY
IN THE COMMISSION AS WELL. THE GRANTING OF OBSERVER
STATUS TO THE EEC AND CMEA BY THE GA GIVES ADDITIONAL
INCENTIVE FOR THE EEC TO SEEK A MORE FORMAL ROLE IN
ECE.ABRAMS

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